



# COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

March 2025 Issue



**MARCH**  
ISSUE

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## MARCH 2025 ISSUE

Once again CLE is delighted to share the 7th Monthly Issue of the Council of Legal Education (CLE) Newsletter. This edition highlights the various activities conducted by CLE in March.

Within this issue, we provide some snippets of the Council's efforts toward a comprehensive review of its regulations, highlighting key proposals. We also delve into the activities of the Directorate of Examination whose core mandate is to oversee the administration of the Bar Examinations. This issue highlights the reason why CLE gazettes candidates quarterly as well as statistics of candidates that have so far gazzetted, signifying a great achievement.

Mr. Chirchir's poem on life's cyclical, carefully uses metaphors to illustrate seasons and transitions in life, suggesting that just as the seasons change, the different phases in life bring shifts in adaptability and gaining wisdom.

We provide a brief on CLE's preparation for the April Bar examinations and the protocols in place that will assist candidates during the examination period.

We reflect on the "Admission to the Bar" appreciating the journey that lawyers go through that culminates in being admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

CLE is now ISO certified, we share with you this good news and assure all our stakeholders that we endeavour to continue offering quality services to them.

Finally, we wrap-up by providing you with an update of our participation in the launch of the Anti-corruption Strategic Guiding Framework for Kenya's justice system. We re-affirm our commitment to fighting corruption and we encourage members of the public to report any corruption through appropriate legal channels.

From the editorial team, we wish to express our appreciation to the Ag. Secretary/CEO, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri for her support and we appreciate the contributors of articles in this issue.

*Enjoy the read!*



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## ADVANCING LEGAL EDUCATION: Council's Comprehensive Regulatory Review - By Moses Muchiri



Prof. Collins Odote, Chairperson of the Council of Legal Education, Hon. Justice (Dr.) Smokin Wanjala, Mr. Samson Alosa, Prof. Winifred Kamau, Prof. Lois Musikali, Council Members, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Ag. Secretary/CEO, with Members of Staff from CLE

The Council with support from the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) recently concluded an intensive four-day retreat from March 18-21, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the modernization and development of the regulatory framework for legal education and training in Kenya.

This strategic gathering brought together members of the Council, Secretariat staff from technical directorates and legislative drafters from the Office of the Attorney General and the Kenya Law Reform Commission to comprehensively review and refine critical regulatory proposals that promise to reshape the landscape of legal education.



The regulatory proposals reviewed are as follows:

- **Legal Education Accreditation and Quality Assurance Regulations, 2025**

A comprehensive set of omnibus regulations designed to establish a robust framework for legal education providers and programs. These regulations will set comprehensive standards for accreditation and quality assurance, covering a wide range of legal education programmes while strategically excluding the Advocates Training Programme and Paralegal Education Programmes, the latter which will have their own sui generis regulatory framework.

- **Advocates Training Programme (ATP) Policy**

This pioneering policy represents a landmark initiative in legal education policy development. By addressing unique and critical aspects of the Advocates Training Programme, the proposed review is set to establish a precedent not just nationally, but across the entire region.



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## • **Advocates Training Programme Regulations, 2025**

Crafted to provide a comprehensive legal framework, these regulations focus on:

- Improving the quality of the Advocates Training Programme.
- Establishing robust accreditation processes and procedures.
- Giving effect to the ATP Policy and associated Standards and Guidelines.

## • **Advocates Training Programme Examinations Regulations, 2025**

A dedicated regulatory framework designed to comprehensively govern all aspects of ATP examinations, ensuring consistency, fairness, and high-quality assessment standards.

## • **Paralegal Education Regulations and Curriculum**

The proposed Paralegal Education Regulations represent a groundbreaking initiative to professionalize and elevate the critical role of paralegals in Kenya's legal ecosystem. Recognizing paralegals as essential pillars of access to justice, these regulations aim to transform paralegal education from a fragmented landscape to a structured, high-quality professional pathway.

## *Looking Forward*

These regulatory proposals demonstrate the Council's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in legal education. By setting rigorous standards and creating comprehensive frameworks, the Council is positioning Kenya's legal education sector for enhanced quality, relevance, and global competitiveness.

Council recognizes and appreciates the support of the IDLO, stakeholders and the Standards, Licensing, Supervision and Compliance Directorate which has spearheaded this process.





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## GAZETTEMENT - BY PETER KIPYEGON

“Time really flies”, is an apt idiom to describe how fast we are approaching the end of the third quarter of the 2024/2025 fiscal year! Admittedly, the year has been one of the busiest for everyone at the Council of Legal Education. In the midst of all the planned annual activities, the year has seen the implementation of hitherto a number of reforms in the management of examinations and novel approaches to stakeholder engagement.

In the Council’s almanac, one outstanding and glamorous thing is in the offing-Gazettement of Qualified ATP Candidates. Gazettement is the publication of the particulars of all the qualified ATP candidates in the Kenya Gazette, the official medium of communication of the Government of Kenya. It comes as the final well-deserved honour that Council confers to the soon-to-be advocates, in their professional journey.

Gazettement is so important an activity that it forms part of the Performance Contracting Targets signed between the Government and the Council. This importance is given its due prominence and place in the 2024-2025 PC targets with a whopping score of ten (10) percent.

Council is proud to announce that in the financial year 2023/2024 performance contracting period, Gazettement as part of the core mandate activities contributed a total per centage score of ten (10) to the overall Directorate’s PC score, thus positively boosting the overall corporate PC ranking.

The process of gazettement begins with the Kenya School of Law submitting a list of cleared candidates for consideration and approval by Council for Gazettement. Accompanying the list are annexures of Certificates of Completion of Pupillage, issued to the candidates by their respective pupil masters. Upon receipt by Council, an in-depth verification process begins.

Pursuant to the Advocates’ Act CAP 16, the following is the criteria that one must fulfil before the name is submitted for publication:

- Pass in all the nine (9) ATP Examination.
- Compliance with the requirements of pupillage, including:
  - Six (6) months mandatory pupillage period.
  - Endorsement of the Certificate of Compliance of Pupillage by a master with good standing.





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## FAILURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GAZETTEMET

All names submitted to the Council are subjected to internal verification to ensure compliance prior with the dictates of the Advocates' Act CAP 16 as to the passing of examination and pupillage. A report of all the qualified candidates is forwarded to the Council for recommendation and gazette.

Ordinarily, the approved list of all qualified candidates is published on CLE's website and social media platforms through a general notice inviting candidates to confirm their particulars before submission to the government printer for publication.

On the other hand, candidates who, for one reason or the other, are not compliant are normally notified of their status and advised on the necessary corrective action.

## FREQUENCY AND GAZETTEMET TIMELINES

Publication of one's particulars in the Kenya gazette brings with it the emotional reflection of one's academic and professional journey.

Every gazette cycle is characterized by numerous inquiries. It is a time of excitement for the qualified candidates as their academic struggles pave way to a new chapter in their professional lives.

Cognizant of the weight with which our stakeholders attach to the gazette process, Council has infused an element of predictability. It is for this reason that Council has determined to gazette all qualified candidates every end of quarter.

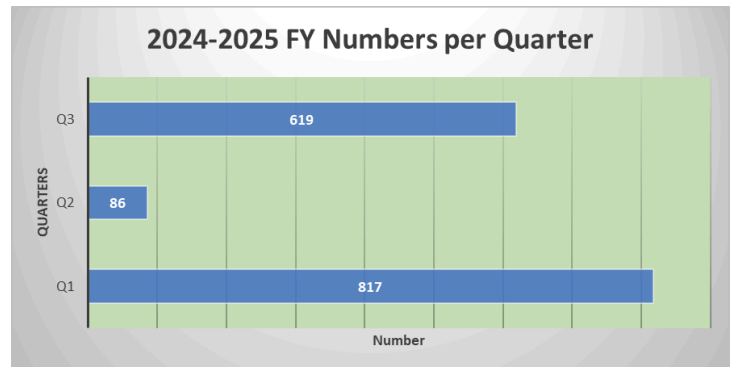


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S. No	Quarters	Quarterly Timelines
a.	First Quarter	September
b.	Second Quarter	December
c.	Third Quarter	March
d.	Fourth Quarter	June

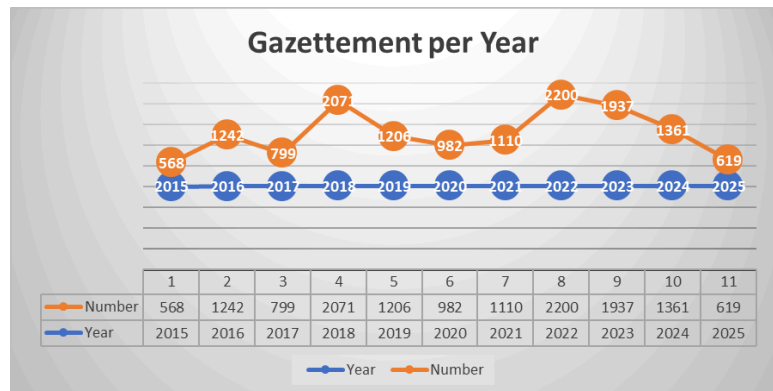
## Statistics



### Success in Numbers, so far...

Since its inception, the Council has continued to administer the ATP examination. It is from this pool that the qualified candidates are gazetted. From the year 2015, the Council has consistently gazetted qualified ATP candidates every year. To date, a total of **Fourteen-Thousand and Ninety-Five (14,095) candidates** have been gazetted.

In the 3rd quarter of 2024-2025 FY, in March 2025, a total of SIX HUNDRED and NINETEEN (619) candidates were gazetted.



Graphical presentation of the number of candidates gazetted since inception of Council of Legal Education in 2015.





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## LIFE'S SEASONS, BY PETER KIPYEGON

Life's got seasons  
Distinctively juxtaposed,  
Like the two poles:  
North and South  
In one, it's summer,  
And winter, in the other!

In the overall schema  
And continuum of phenomena;  
The end of one season,  
Presupposes a paradigm shift  
Of insights;  
Shaping suppleness  
And nous.

That's how the sea of life  
Is consummated in perfect harmony;  
As tides embrace each other  
The sea continues to glitter  
In awe and grandeur

At Council  
The seasons are nigh;  
As one cohort is engrossed  
In the registration processes  
Superimposed in the simultaneity  
With fidgeting on their desks,  
Scratching their heads,  
Adjusting their spectacles;  
In ardent preparation

For the Forthcoming Trial.

Another;  
Is jubilant!  
Having fulfilled the rigors  
Spelt out;  
In the Advocates' Act,  
Yearns for Gazettement  
And admission;  
To the Bar.

As the different winds blow;  
Remember:  
The race is not to the swift;  
Nor the battle to the strong...  
For time and chance happen to all.

From Council's corner,  
It's hats off and thumbs up;  
To ALL.







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## THE APRIL 2025 ATP EXAMINATION

For any candidate who did not sit the November 2024 ATP examination, the news of the April 2025 ATP examination could not have come at a better time. The examination will be administered from **10th to 24th April 2025**. This is the second ATP examination series in the 2024-2025 Financial Year.

### April 2025 ATP Examination Timelines

The General Notice Number Five (5) of 2025 on Registration for the April 2025 ATP Examination gave the following timelines.

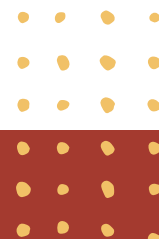
S.NO	Activity	Timelines
1.	Registration	10th to 21st March 2025
2.	Application for Bar Examination Loan	By 21st March 2025
3.	Application to defer Examination	29th March to April 2nd 2025
4.	Downloading of Examination Cards	From 3rd April 2025

## TEST DAY PROTOCOLS

The April 2025 ATP examination will be conducted only in Nairobi region. Administration of examination is governed by examination regulations. Any breach of such regulations amounts to an examination irregularity.

In the course of the administration of the Advocates' Training Programme Examination, the following are some of the key protocols to observe:

- **Examination Timetable:** The examination timetable shall be accessible from Council website. The timetable shows the date, the time, the examination paper and the room/ venue of the examination. Candidates are required to familiarize themselves with it.
- **Punctuality:** No candidate shall be allowed into the examination room, after thirty (30) minutes following the start of examination.





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## ADMISSION TO THE BAR

*A Moment of Accomplishment and a Career Milestone - By Victoria Wahu*

- **Identification Documents:** For a candidate to be allowed into the examination room, the following documents must be presented to the invigilators: National/KSL Identity Card or Passport and the April 2025 ATP Examination Card indicating the examination to be taken.
- **Unauthorized Material:** Any unauthorized material including electronic devices such as smartwatches, headphones, written notes, pencil pouches, water, and caps are not allowed into the examination room.
- **Washroom Breaks:** Unless otherwise permitted by the Coordinator/supervisor, no candidate is allowed to leave the examination room within the first one (1) hour and the last thirty (30) minutes.
- **Orderliness and Courtesy:** All examinees are expected to maintain good order and follow the instructions by the room supervisors and invigilators.
- **Blue and Black pens:** Generally, the accepted pen colours used to write examinations are blue and black.



A photo taken at the Admission to the Bar ceremony held on 6th March 2025

Admission to the Bar is a significant milestone in a lawyer's career. It is the finale! Of years of rigorous academic training, deep commitment, and intensive practical experience. It is a moment of great joy, triumph and a gateway to numerous opportunities.

The journey to Admission to the Bar is very demanding but also in the long run rewarding. It starts with obtaining a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B) from a university recognized by CLE, followed by a Post-Graduate Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law (KSL). The Advocates Training Program (ATP) at KSL is a rigorous course that includes coursework, pupillage, and taking the Bar Examination which entails sitting for nine (9) units.

Candidates who have successfully completed ATP are required to first clear with CLE. CLE then upon scrutinizing candidates' records gazettes them signifying that they have qualified. Candidates are then required to collect their completion certificates and final transcripts, these documents form part of the annexure in their Petition to the Honourable Chief Justice for Admission to the Bar.





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The Honorable Chief Justice upon being Petitioned, hears the Petitions in her Chambers and the final step is the much-anticipated admission ceremony where candidates take the Oath and officially become Advocates of the High Court of Kenya.

The admission ceremony is a joyous and emotional occasion. It marks the end of years of academic and professional training and the start of a fulfilling career. Close family members, friends, and mentors gather to witness this major achievement, celebrating the resilience, perseverance, and hard work that led to this point. It brings a sigh of relief as pursuing a law career is no mean feat!

The joy is really personal, representing the realization of a long-held dream, overcoming challenges, and finally the recognition of one's capabilities. It is a moment of immense pride and gratitude for all the attendees of the ceremony.

Admission to the bar is a career-defining milestone that opens the door to numerous opportunities in the legal profession. Advocates can now practice law, represent clients in court, offer legal advisory services, and contribute to the development of justice in Kenya.

## *Envisioning the Future as an Advocate*

After admission, the journey to various career paths begins and as the legal landscape evolves, newly admitted advocates have the opportunity to make a lasting impact in shaping legal practice, advocating for legal reforms, and ensuring justice is accessible to all Kenyans. The future holds endless possibilities, and admission to the bar is just the beginning of a lifelong journey of legal excellence and service.

In delivering our speech to the Newly Admitted Advocates, on 6th March 2025, CLE reminded newly admitted Advocates that the Law is not just a career, it is a calling. Which will test their perseverance, question their principles, and require their utmost effort. But beyond the demanding long hours and heavy responsibilities, there is an opportunity for them to influence society, advocate for justice, and leave a lasting impact.





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cont.

As an Advocate it is important to constantly remember that achieving success in today's legal arena requires more than just understanding the law. It requires versatility - the skill to adjust to an ever-changing world. Innovations in technology, Artificial Intelligence, and new business models are reshaping how we provide legal services. The critical question is: *Are you prepared to adapt?* Adaptability is the greatest asset, in whatever area of practice one finds themselves in.

Networking is equally important. The practice of law does not happen in a vacuum. The relationships you build - with mentors, colleagues, and even clients - will unlock opportunities one never thought were possible. It is advisable to look for mentors who have traversed similar paths and dare to engage with professionals outside the legal field.

There is no promise that the career path will be smooth. Many times one may doubt their decisions, but before resigning to fate, young Advocates should please remember this: *The lawyers who achieve the greatest success are not those who are never confronted with challenges, but rather those who refuse to let setbacks conquer them.*

The Legal career demands maintaining integrity, remaining eager for knowledge, and committing to continuous growth. The law is alive, and so *must one be* - ready to learn, ready to adapt, and ready to make their mark.

CLE continues to ensure that the quality of Legal Education and Training meets the provided standards. Our Strategic Goal is :*Transformative legal education and training in Kenya.*

*Once again, we wish all the newly admitted Advocates the very best in their career.*





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## ISO CERTIFICATION - By Duncan Nalwenge



In July 2024, CLE embarked on a journey for Recertification of the ISO 9001:2015 QMS Certificate, by successfully holding a Stage 1 ISO Audit in July 2024 and in October of the same year, Stage 2 ISO Audit.

Quality Management Systems assures we offer top-notch quality service.

Directorates, divisions, and Units within CLE have all documented their processes and this is what the QMS Audit expects.

We are grateful to the Council, led by Prof. Collins Odote, Ag. Secretary/CEO, Ms. Jennifer Gitiri, Management, and all Staff at CLE for embracing ISO and making a commitment to achieve more.

We endeavor to continuously improve our services and live to our commitment.

## LAUNCH - ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIC GUIDING FRAMEWORK (ASGF) FOR KENYA'S JUSTICE SECTOR

By Victoria Wahu



CLE participated in the launch of the Anti- corruption Strategic Guiding Framework for the justice sector organised by NCAJ which aims at building a transparent and accountable system to combat corruption. Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH, reaffirmed the NCAJ's commitment to address corruption nationally and set high standards for state and public officers. CLE remains dedicated to maintaining a corruption- free environment and encourages the public to report any corruption through appropriate legal channels.



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# CONTACT US

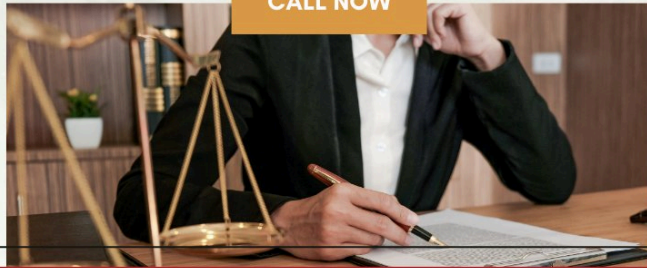
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